

### **REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action mailed October 14, 2009, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1, 3-7, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 55-64 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3-7, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 55 have been amended. New claims 66-71 have been added. As a result, claims 1, 3-7, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 55-64 are pending for examination with claims 1 and 55 being independent. No new matter has been added.

#### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-7, 16, 19-20, 55-58 and 61-64 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,301,609 (“Aravamudan”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,719 (“Stimmel”). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

#### **A. Independent Claim 1**

The cited references do not meet all of the limitations of claim 1. In particular, none of the cited references teaches or suggests multiple limitations of claim 1 related to a bounding system.

On pages 2-3, the Office Action concedes that Aravamudan does not teach a bounding system as recited in claim 1. The Office Action then states that Stimmel teaches the bounding system in col. 3, lines 50 – col. 4, line 15. Applicant respectfully disagrees that Stimmel, either in the cited portion or elsewhere, teaches or describes all the limitations of claim 1 against which Stimmel is asserted.

Stimmel is directed to enabling a user to determine the status of other users and to identify communication procedures for contacting the other users. (Abstract.) In the cited portion, Stimmel describes how a user can “self assign a status” (e.g. “Do not disturb,” “Available,” etc.) and associate with that status methods for contacting the user (e.g. email, telephone, etc.). (Stimmel, col. 3, line 52-col. 4, line 2.) Stimmel then describes how a communication window on another user’s computer would display the available communication options for the first user (called “John” in the example in Stimmel) (Stimmel, col. 4, lines 3-15). These teachings are not directed to the limitations of claim 1 against which they are cited.

Stimmel does not teach or suggest a bounding system. In particular, Stimmel is completely silent with respect to classifying notifications based on a priority, deferring notifications based on the priority, grouping notifications of different priorities into a group, forwarding the group to a user and displaying, on the same display area, content of notifications of higher priorities in its entirety along with content of notification of lower priorities as summaries.

In view of the above, Stimmel does not teach or suggest

a bounding system that classifies a notification to the user with a predefined notification priority, the bounding system defers the notification based at least in part on the notification priority and the likely available state of the user, the bounding system establishes a group of notifications associated with at least first and second priorities and forwards the group of notifications to the user based on an occurrence of a notification with a highest priority affiliated with the group of notifications, wherein content of at least the highest priority notification included in the group of notifications is presented, on a display area, to the user in its entirety, and content of notifications associated with lesser priorities included in the group of notifications are displayed, on the same display area, for the user as a summary,

as recited in claim 1. Aravamudan and other references cited in the Office Action, Godefroid (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,840) and Massie (U.S. Patent No. 7,162,238), do not cure the deficiency of Stimmel and were not cited as teaching any of the above limitations of claim 1.

In addition, on pages 8-9, in Response to Applicant's arguments provided in the Applicant's response to the Office Action mailed April 30, 2009 ("Applicant's Response"), the Office Action contends that Applicant's argument focused on "[w]hether **Aravamudan** teach or suggest a monitor that monitors a state of a device ... " (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully notes that, contrary to these assertions, the Applicant's Response highlighted differences between the claim and the Stimmel reference at page 7, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph through page 8, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. The present Office Action did not address any of the Applicant's arguments with respect to Stimmel provided in the Applicant's Response and cites no reference teaching the limitations of the claim 1 previously identified as not met by Stimmel.

Further, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that content of at least the highest priority notification included in the group of notifications is presented, *on a display area*, to the user in its entirety, and content of notifications associated with lesser priorities included in the group of notifications are displayed, *on the same display area*, for the user as a summary (emphasis added).

Support for these amendments to claim 1 can be found at least on page 6, [0098] of a publication of the Applicant's specification, U.S. Patent Application 2002/0087649. None of the cited references teaches or suggests presenting, ***on the same display area***, content of a notification of a highest ***in its entirety*** and content of notifications of lesser priorities ***as a summary***.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Aravamudan and Stimmel, either alone or in combination, and is in allowable condition.

Claims 3-7, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, and 63 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, and 63 is respectfully requested.

B. Independent Claim 55

The cited references do not meet all of the limitations of claim 55.

Claim 55 recites, *inter alia*,

***classifying a first notification based on a predefined notification classification as a first classification;***  
***deferring the first notification directed to the user based on the first classification and the likely available state of the user;***  
***classifying a second notification based on the predefined notification classification as a second classification, the second classification being different from the first classification;***  
***deferring the second notification directed to the user based on the second classification and the likely available state of the user;***  
***establishing a group of notifications including the first and second notifications;***  
***determining that the second notification should be forwarded to the user;***  
***forwarding the group of notifications to the user based at least in part on determining that the second notification should be forwarded;***  
***presenting, on a display, a content of the second notification included in the group of notifications to the user in its entirety; and***  
***presenting, on the display, a content of the first notification as a summary together with the content of the second notification.***  
(Emphasis added).

On page 5, the Office Action rejects claim 55 for the same reasons as claim 1. As should be clear from the above discussion, the cited references, even if combined, do not meet at least the multiple limitations of claim 55 highlighted above.

In addition, similarly to claim 1, claim 55 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, presenting, ***on a display***, a content of the second notification included in the group of notifications to the user in its entirety; and presenting, ***on the display***, a content of the first notification as a summary ***together with the content of the second notification*** (emphasis added). Support for these amendments to claim 55 can be found at least on page 6, [0098] of a publication of the Applicant's specification, U.S. Patent Application 2002/0087649. None of the cited references teaches or suggests presenting, on the same display, a group of notifications by presenting a content of the second notification included in the group in its entirety and a content of the first notification as a summary.

In view of the foregoing, claim 55 patentably distinguishes over Aravamudan and Stimmel, either alone or in combination, and is in allowable condition.

Claims 56-62 and 64 depend from claim 55 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 55-62 and 64 is respectfully requested.

#### New Claims

New claims 65-71 have been added to further define Applicant's contribution to the art. Support for each of the new claims is provided below as found in a publication of the Applicant's specification, U.S. Patent Application 2002/0087649.

New claim 65 recites, *inter alia*, a system that: assigns a notification priority to a notification to the user, defers the notification based at least in part on the notification priority and the context, groups a plurality of notifications to the user into a group, wherein at least one first notification in the group is assigned a first priority and at least one second notification in the group is assigned a second priority, and wherein the first priority is higher than the second priority, identifies a display time based on an expiration of a deferral time of the at least one first notification and the context, and displays, on a display at the identified display time, the plurality of notifications, wherein

*content of the at least one first notification assigned the first priority is displayed in its entirety and content of the at least one second notification assigned the second priority is displayed as a summary, and the at least one first notification and the at least one second notification are positioned on the display to indicate that they are in the group* (emphasis added). Support for the limitations of claim 65 can be found at least on pages 1-2, [0007-0009], page 3, [0050-0054], page 4, [0068-0072], page 6, [0098] and in other portions throughout the Applicant's specification. As should be clear from the above discussion of the references, none of the cited references teaches or suggests the above limitations of claim 65. Thus, claim 65 patentably distinguishes over the art of record and is allowable.

New claim 66 depends from claim 65 and is allowable for at least the same reasons. Moreover, claim 66 recites "[t]he notification system of claim 65, wherein the at least one second notification is displayed on the display below the at least one first notification." Support for the limitations of claim 66 can be found at least on page 6, [0098]. The cited references do not teach or suggest the above limitations of claim 66. Accordingly, claim 66 is patentable for this additional reason as well.

New claim 67 depends from claim 65 and is allowable for at least the same reasons. Moreover, claim 67 recites "[t]he notification system of claim 65, wherein the at least one second notification is displayed on the display regardless whether a maximum deferral time of the at least one second notification is expired." Support for the limitations of claim 67 can be found at least on page 6, [0098]. The cited references do not teach or suggest the above limitations of claim 67. Accordingly, claim 67 is patentable for this additional reason as well.

New claim 68 depends from claim 65 and is allowable for at least the same reasons. Moreover, claim 68 recites "[t]he notification system of claim 65, wherein the at least one second notification comprises a plurality of notifications each associated with a priority lower than the first priority, and wherein the plurality of notifications from the at least one second notification are displayed on the display in order of their priorities." Support for the limitations of claim 68 can be

found at least on page 6, [0098]. The cited references do not teach or suggest the above limitations of claim 68. Accordingly, claim 68 is patentable for this additional reason as well.

New claim 69 depends from claim 65 and is allowable for at least the same reasons. Moreover, claim 69 recites “[t]he notification system of claim 65, wherein a degree of summarization of the content of the at least one second notification displayed as the summary corresponds to a value of the second priority.” Support for the limitations of claim 69 can be found at least on page 20, [0333]. The cited references do not teach or suggest the above limitations of claim 69. Accordingly, claim 69 is patentable for this additional reason as well.

New claim 70 depends from claim 65 and is allowable for at least the same reasons. Moreover, claim 70 recites “[t]he notification system of claim 69, wherein the degree of summarization increases higher when the value of the second priority decreases.” Support for the limitations of claim 70 can be found at least on page 20, [0333]. The cited references do not teach or suggest the above limitations of claim 70. Accordingly, claim 70 is patentable for this additional reason as well.

New claim 71 depends from claim 65 and is allowable for at least the same reasons. Moreover, claim 71 recites “[t]he notification system of claim 69, wherein the least one second notification is associated with at least one gesture, and wherein, upon receiving a user input with respect to the at least one gesture, the system displays additional information on the at least one second notification.” Support for the limitations of claim 71 can be found at least on page 16, [0282]. The cited references do not teach or suggest the above limitations of claim 71. Accordingly, claim 71 is patentable for this additional reason as well.

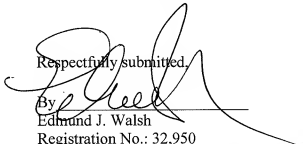
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the application in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, any necessary extension of time is hereby requested. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Docket No. M1103.70793US00.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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